

Subject: FW: Non-Metro Local Official Consultation Process - comments
From: Larry Bredeman <larry.bredeman@tananachiefs.org>
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To: stip@dot.state.ak.us

Comments-due: 02/13/2004

The Tanana Chiefs Conference is pleased to provide comments regarding the importance of consultation, cooperation, and coordination among Tribal governments with federal, state, and local agencies in developing a Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). This subject is of great interest and concern among the Interior Tribes of the TCC/Doyon Region where infrastructure and transportation needs lists are long and funding for these projects has become increasingly difficult to secure. The BIA - Indian Reservation Road (IRR) Inventory Program provides limited funding for transportation improvements on behalf of federally recognized Tribal Governments in Alaska. It has been determined by the Alaska Department of Transportation (ADOT) that these BIA-IRR federal funds can be used to provide the proposed 9% cash match that would be required by the state before STIP projects receive funding for rural villages. Leveraging these types funding resources is critical in addressing the transportation needs of Native communities and should be pursued whenever possible to bring STIP projects to design and construction. In regard to the state's definition of a Non-metropolitan local official, we here at TCC are alarmed by the omission of Tribal Governments here in Alaska.

Lawrence Bredeman
Transportation Director
Tanana Chiefs Conference, Inc.
122 1st Avenue
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
Voice: 907-452-8251 ext. 3272 fax: 907-459-3851
E-mail: larry.bredeman@tananachiefs.org